

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
FY 2015 FORMULA PROGRAM

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Funding awarded under the FY 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program State Solicitation (JAG 2015) will be used to continue and complement programs launched under New Jersey's strategy to combat crime through targeted investigations and prosecutions.

New Jersey has experienced a high volume of violent crime in many of its urban areas. Gangs that had been rooted in a city or region of the State continue to expand their turf, causing a rash of shootings and violent crime. These gangs, fueled by the revenues of drug distribution and armed with illegally obtained guns, have threatened the safety of our residents and the vitality of our cities and towns. New Jersey's strategic plan focuses on investigations and prosecutions as critical components to addressing violent crime. New Jersey is on the forefront of using intelligence-led, data-driven policing strategies to deploy limited policing resources.

JAG 2015 funds will support the twenty-one County Prosecutors' Offices Gang, Gun, and Narcotics Task Forces (County Task Forces), the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Organized Crime, Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force, the Division of Criminal Justice's (DCJ), Multi-Jurisdictional Gangs, Guns & Narcotics Task Force (Statewide Task Force) and the Atlantic City Organized Crime Task Force. The County Task Forces will continue to target drug enforcement where such enforcement is consistent with the task forces' larger mission of suppressing gangs and gun violence. The task forces will continue to work to deprive profit-minded criminal groups of their sources of income, whether the gangs derive their income from

the sale of controlled dangerous substances or profit-motivated acts of violence. The evolutionary transformation of the task forces likely will produce changes in the identification of targets. In selecting drug distribution targets and cases, prosecutors should focus special attention on those dealers who use or carry firearms or otherwise employ violence as part of their drug-trafficking activities. The NJSP's Task Force consists of three regional bureaus in the northern, central, and southern areas of the State. These bureaus employ the intelligence-led policing model and state of the art intelligence analysis to target violent street gangs and narcotics traffickers. DCJ's Statewide Task Force investigates and prosecutes members of criminal gang organizations, gun traffickers and gun trafficking organizations, whose operations transcend county jurisdictions or operate across State lines into or out of New Jersey. The Statewide Task Force works cooperatively with federal, county and local law enforcement officials.

Recognizing the regional aspects of crime in Atlantic City, and the urgency in suppressing violent crime within the Tourism District and the city as a whole, the Attorney General authorized, in mid-2011, the initiation of a multi-agency task force comprised of experienced detectives and prosecutors. The Atlantic City Organized Crime Task Force is comprised of state, county and local law enforcement personnel and targets gang members, weapons traffickers and narcotics distributors most responsible for violence. The Atlantic City Organized Crime Task Force directly supports and supplements local law enforcement activities within the Tourism District by focusing, through intelligence-led policing, on the interdiction, apprehension and prosecution of gang members, weapons traffickers and narcotics distributors, most responsible for the violence and related crimes that have long plagued Atlantic City.

Finally, JAG 2015 funds will continue to support Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CJIS) improvement projects, vital to the integration of statewide information sharing networks. Initiatives are coordinated through the CJIS Policy Committee.

The State Sub-Award Process

1. DCJ's Program Development & Grants Section administers the JAG program.
2. Proposed subgrants are reviewed and approved by the Department of Law & Public Safety (The Department) through the Consolidated Grants Management Office (CGMO).
3. All projects are subgranted by the Program Development & Grants Section to divisions within the department (e.g., NJSP), other State agencies (e.g., Department of Corrections), local units of government (municipal and county), and non-profit agencies.
4. Subgrants may be offered by formula, competitive or on a strategic basis. If required, a Notice of Availability of Funds (NOAF) is published in the New Jersey Register.
5. Subgrant projects are assigned to a Program Analyst. Once a completed subgrant application is received and considered satisfactory, the subgrant application is reviewed and approved by an Internal Grant Review Committee.
6. Upon approval, the Subgrant project grant package is processed within CGMO, recommending the Attorney General or designee signs the contract.
7. Upon Attorney General or designee signature, the executed contract is sent to the subgrantee.

The State Sub-Award Timeline

Objectives/Activities	Subgrant Process	Completion Date
Law Enforcement	6 months from date of federal award - local agencies 2 months from date of federal award - State agencies	Ongoing from start of project
Prosecutors & Courts	6 months from date of federal award - local agencies	Ongoing from start of project
Justice Information Sharing	6 months from date of federal award - local agencies 6 months from date of federal award - State agencies	Ongoing from start of project

Description of Programs to be Funded

Purpose Area

- 1 County Multi-Jurisdictional Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force
The task forces, each under the operational control of the county prosecutor, target drug and violent crimes within their jurisdictions.
- 1 DSP Organized Crime, Gangs and Narcotics Task Force
The task force targets aspects of narcotic distribution and gang activity within the State through intelligence-led policing.
- 1 Statewide Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force
The task force targets aspects of narcotic distribution and gang activity within the State through intelligence led policing.
- 1 Atlantic City Organized Crime Task Force
The task force directly supports and supplements local law enforcement activities within the Tourism District by focusing, through intelligence-led policing, on the interdiction, apprehension and prosecution of gang members, weapons traffickers and narcotics distributors.
- 6 CJIS
For the integration and enhancement of New Jersey's statewide information sharing networks. Initiatives are coordinated through the CJIS Policy Committee.
- N/A Program Administration
Funds will be applied to costs associated with personnel directly involved in the administration of the JAG programs. Responsibilities will include fiscal and programmatic oversight, technical assistance, ongoing review, monitoring, assessment, and reporting for all JAG programs. Actual costs will be charged based on time sheets reflecting the actual time worked on JAG.

2. PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

New Jersey's strategic plan combats crime through targeted investigations and prosecutions using intelligence-led, data driven policing strategies. The following persons/groups help guide New Jersey's priorities and funding strategy for JAG:

- Acting Attorney General John J. Hoffman and Elie Honig, Director, Division of Criminal Justice - The Attorney General, working with DCJ, NJSP, the Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC) and local police departments, examines crime data and hot spots and makes assessments about effective deployments. The State plan has been to reduce violent crimes with the strategic use of limited resources as set forth in the initiatives in this application.
- CJIS Policy Committee - The committee is represented by the Attorney General's Office, the NJSP, the Administrative Office of the Courts, DCJ, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Department of Corrections, Office of Information Technology, Juvenile Justice Commission, the NJ Jail Wardens Association, NJ Chiefs of Police Association, NJ Parole Board, NJ Sheriffs Association, and other criminal justice agencies.
- County Prosecutors Monthly Meetings - The DCJ exercises the Attorney General's authority under the Criminal Justice Act (N.J.S.A. 52:17B-98 et seq.) to supervise the operations and administration of the twenty-one county prosecutors and county and municipal police departments. Monthly meetings are held within the DCJ to address various criminal justice issues, identify needs and gaps in services and coordinate law enforcement planning efforts statewide.

- County Narcotics Commanders Association - Other forms of local data analysis supporting the State strategy include quarterly meetings of the County Narcotics Commanders Association, which share information and discuss strategies being employed by the County Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Forces to address violent crimes and law enforcement training initiatives creating a law enforcement officer network to share and discuss crime and effective responses.
- Office of the Attorney General CGMO - CGMO convenes a weekly consolidated grants meeting for the purpose of ensuring coordination of resources and services within the department. Grants personnel from the various divisions within the department (DCJ, NJSP, Highway Traffic Safety, Civil Rights, Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Juvenile Justice Commission, and OAG) meet weekly to share information and coordinate federal programs, where appropriate.

Engagement of Local Communities

The crime data from the local communities is collected and analyzed to support New Jersey's crime prevention strategies and funding priorities. JAG prevention programs focus on giving local communities the tools to analyze crime data and the flexibility to implement crime prevention projects to address the specialized needs of their neighborhoods. Through local law enforcement, community members focus on crime data in their neighborhoods, which leads to effective prevention and delinquency programming.

Local law enforcement is directly included in the State's strategy through the collection and sharing of crime data with the NJSP's ROIC. The ROIC collects, assesses and produces information and intelligence products aimed at targeting recidivist offenders and suppressing gun

violence. The ROIC, in turn, utilizes this locally collected data for violence prediction purposes, and to better assist communities to prevent and address violent crime.

Data and Analysis Supporting State Strategy

The data and analysis supporting the State strategy comes from local and State sources with the nucleus being the ROIC. The ROIC is operated by the NJSP and is comprised of more than 10 agencies, 40 analysts, and interagency liaisons. The ROIC collects, analyzes and distributes crime data to all of its partners. The ROIC spearheads interagency collection efforts, primarily with local jurisdictions throughout the State, to collect, assess and produce information and intelligence products aimed at targeting recidivist offenders and suppressing gun violence.

For example, the ROIC produces the NJ POP (Pins on Paper) Monthly Report, which provides current and warning intelligence on threat, crime and gun violence analysis. The NJ POP report examines the shooting-hit data throughout the State using CrimeTrack, which is available to all law enforcement agencies using the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC). Each NJ POP report identifies hot spots by region, provides temporal and spatial analysis, shows gang-involved shootings, and draws associations between weapons recovered, recidivist offenders, and shooting motivations across jurisdictional boundaries. The NJ POP report assists local, municipal and county law enforcement agencies to combat violent crime using accurate, timely and effective data analysis, and to employ intelligence-led, data-driven policing strategies.

The ROIC works with police departments in Jersey City, Newark, Trenton, Paterson, Perth Amboy and Camden, among others, which come together with federal and State law enforcement partners to exchange intelligence and coordinate enforcement operations through

bi-weekly meetings called Violent Enterprise Source Targeting (VEST). These meetings seek to focus interagency resources on reducing violent crime trends in these cities. VEST meetings are driven by statistical analysis and specific crime information provided by the host agency and participants. VEST information is published in the NJ POP report. The ROIC also works with cities to exchange crime data and trends.

New Jersey analyzes violent crime data using information provided from the ROIC and Uniform Crime Reporting Data (UCR) to make determinations on how best to strategically provide sorely needed resources to local-level police departments and county prosecutors' offices, in the effort to reduce violent crime through intelligence-led policing initiatives. New Jersey law enforcement professionals and police organizations are no longer working independently. Crime patterns and trends are being tracked and shared to assist NJ in implementing strategies that cross traditional borders.

Other forms of local data analysis supporting the State strategy include quarterly meetings of the County Narcotics Commanders Association, which share information and discuss strategies being employed by the County Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Forces to address violent crimes and law enforcement training initiatives creating a law enforcement officer network to share and discuss crime and effective responses.

The exchange of crime data by local communities and the ROIC is critical as violent crime evolves in NJ. Gang violence in NJ has changed as street gangs mature and consolidate their networks. According to the most recent release, January 2011, of "Gangs in New Jersey: Municipal Law Enforcement Response to the 2011 NJSP Gang Survey," compiled by the NJSP, gang presence in NJ remains widespread, having a presence in all 21 counties, including urban, suburban and rural areas. Half of all municipalities report the presence of gangs in their schools.

Of those municipalities that reported the presence of gangs, one-third reported an increase in gang activity. The gang survey's data is being used by State and local law enforcement agencies to direct their strategies to the most pressing violent crime needs.

Gaps in State's Needed Resources

JAG 2015 funding will be utilized to provide critical resources to support local and State criminal justice initiatives, such as personnel, equipment and training when there is no other available funding. JAG 2015 funding will be awarded to agencies to meet essential services in keeping our communities safe and to support needed CJIS improvements to enhance data sharing efficiencies among criminal justice agencies.

3. CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES

Under NJ's unified system of law enforcement, the Attorney General, as the chief law enforcement officer of the State, has supervisory authority over the 21 county prosecutors and all other law enforcement departments and agencies throughout the State. DCJ's Program Development and Grants Section is the State Administrative Agency (SAA) for federally assisted criminal justice programs. The DCJ reports directly to the Attorney General. We are uniquely positioned to assume a leadership and oversight role in developing and implementing JAG 2015 programs that require strong partnerships among the various levels of criminal justice agencies. DCJ staff is experienced in providing technical assistance for effective program implementation and maximizing and leveraging resources through a coordination of services. Staff from the OAG's CGMO convenes a weekly consolidated grants meeting for the purpose of ensuring coordination of resources and services within the Department. Grants personnel from the various

divisions within the Department (DCJ, NJSP, Highway Traffic Safety, Civil Rights, Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Juvenile Justice Commission, and OAG) meet weekly to share information and coordinate federal programs, where appropriate.

DCJ has direct responsibility for the administration of the JAG Program, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant (RSAT), and the federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program (BVP). On behalf of the NJ U.S. Attorney's Office, DCJ is the fiscal agent for the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program. DCJ also administers the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) formula grant and the STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) formula grant programs.

DCJ also oversees NJ's Safe and Secure Communities Program which provides funding for additional police officers to address crime in a community oriented manner. DCJ is also responsible for the implementation of the Body Armor Replacement Fund, which is a state funded grant program to purchase body armor for law enforcement and correctional officers.

In addition to grants administration, DCJ's primary responsibilities include planning, program development, technical assistance, monitoring, and coordination of resources. Analysts assigned to the unit work closely with the subgrantee to establish partnerships that expand and enhance programs.

4. DATA COLLECTION & SUBMISSION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To comply with Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) reporting requirements, DCJ collects JAG Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) data, narrative questions, annual reports, and performance metrics from JAG sub-recipients. JAG sub-recipients will be expected to complete DCJ's own quarterly narrative reports, BJA's narrative questions, and quarterly PMT

data. Narrative data will be collated, reviewed and approved by DCJ staff, and uploaded to the BJA PMT and the Grant Management System (GMS) as required.

DCJ collects BJA's PMT data electronically on Excel spreadsheets, which are stored on a network drive. Access will be limited by password to ensure data control, and all changes will be tracked by the DCJ Research and Evaluation analysts before the final submission. New sub-recipients receive training on PMT data collection and reporting. Subrecipients are responsible for collecting and reporting PMT data electronically to the DCJ Research and Evaluation analysts. DCJ's Research and Evaluation analysts review and reconcile the subrecipients' spreadsheets. DCJ Research and Evaluation analysts collate and upload the subrecipient data into the required PMT reporting system. Once the draft has been reviewed and approved, the Research and Evaluation analysts post the final data to BJA's PMT. Annually, DCJ uploads the PMT data to GMS.